

REMARKS

Prior to examination, Applicants request entry of the amendments presented herein. Claim 1 is amended to recite a method for preparing a conjugate comprising a protein and a polymer or a derivative thereof, wherein the polymer is a HAS and the protein is a G-CSF, the method comprising reacting at least one functional group A of the polymer or the derivative thereof with at least one functional group Z of the protein and thereby forming a covalent linkage, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of an aldehyde group and a keto group, and wherein A is a hydrazido group forming the linkage with Z, and wherein G is O or S. Support for this amendment can be found in original claim 9 and in the specification at, for example, page 24, line 13 to page 25, line 2. Claims 5 and 8 are amended to depend from claim 8 also is amended to replace "a group A" with "the group A." In addition, claims 72, 75, and 77 are amended to depend from claim 54 or claim 56, and claims 4, 9, 11, 12, 14-53, 57-71, and 74 are cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is added.

Applicant asks that the claims be examined in view of the amendments presented herein. Please charge \$390 for the multiple dependent claims fee, and apply any other charges or credits, to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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